

**BURR OAK WOODS CONSERVATION NATURE CENTER** is located one mile north of I-70 on Hwy 7, one mile west on Park Road. The Nature Center is open Monday through Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and noon to 5:00 p.m. on Sundays. **Area Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. NO PETS ARE ALLOWED.** There is no admission fee. **Phone: 816-228-3766 TDD: 816-655-6268**

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*The Nutshell*  
Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center  
Missouri Department of Conservation  
1401 NW Park Road - Blue Springs, Mo 64015



*June 2, 2006  
7:00 - 8:00 p.m.*

## *Bluegrass Missourians In Concert*

*Please call to register.*



# *The Nutshell*

*Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center Newsletter*

*Volume 20 May 2006 Number 05*



## *An education on the stream....*

*The weekend was drawing near and I was busy getting ready and carrying out all the big plans. As a single parent of three small children, I didn't get many breaks and I had to make the most of the breaks I did get.*

*I was going floating on the Eleven Point river with some close friends; they were all German-speaking teachers, brought here by the Kansas City Magnet Schools. They lived around the corner from me and my best friend, Claire. She introduced me to them. Claire and I have been best friends since we were seven years old. I'm too old now to tell you how many years that has been.*

*I had my sleeping bag ready, clothes packed, food and camera in waterproof bags. The neighbor was watching the dog, and the kids were going to their dad's for the weekend. Everything was falling into place.*

*Wednesday night I got the inevitable phone call, the kid's weekend at their dad's was being cancelled. I had too much invested in this trip, emotionally and other wise, to give it up; I needed a break. I called my close friend who had a daughter my two girls' age. She agreed to watch them for the weekend.*

*I made a few calls to try to make arrangements for my ten year-old son, Jake. Everyone had other plans and couldn't help. I called Claire, "Why don't you just bring him?" She thought it would be fine and no one would mind having him tag along.*

*I talked to Jake about it. He thought it sounded 'Okay,' I mean, how excited could it be for a ten year-old to hang out with a bunch of adults.*

*I packed the extra sleeping bag, put in a pair of long johns that had shrunk too small for me (they had little pink flowers on them), extra food, and other stuff for Jake. Friday afternoon we all headed south to the great country of clear, flowing streams.*

*It was early spring, the time of year when you still need to wear long sleeves during the day and it gets cold at night. We arrived at our campsite, built a fire and cooked our dinner. The German teachers engulfed Jake like he was their own. They took him for little nature walks, searched under rocks for herps, looked deeply into the nearby stream, and tried to identify trees by their bark.*

*One had brought an astronomy chart and did star gazing with Jake until late into the night. Out in the country, the night sky looked like diamond dust had spilled onto black velvet. The sky was covered in the stars; just magnificent!*

*The next morning, we went on the float trip. Jake rode in the canoe between two of the male teachers. He went with them the whole day. A couple of times I asked if he wanted to switch to my canoe....he didn't. He was eating this up! The only boy with ten teachers, and they all wanted to talk to him!*

*This was the first float trip Jake had ever been on. It was great fun for him and for me to experience it with him, especially with the support of my friends. The water was so crystal clear and the scenery on the Eleven Point....simply, pristine. Surely, this is the same feeling that Lewis and Clark had when they passed through uncharted territories; incredible, awestruck sights. Floating down the river while towering cliffs overhead guard the secrets of the Ozark Mountains; it's truly a humbling experience.*

*We floated until dark, and floated right up to our campsite. By the time we got there, we were cold and hungry. I took Jake to our tent and handed him the pair of small long johns I brought for him. "But, Mom," he exclaimed! "They have flowers on them!" "That's Okay," I said, "No one will notice, you'll have your sweats over them, and it is dark outside." I think he was too cold to argue anymore.*

*We sat around the campfire and enjoyed another evening of good food and good camaraderie. Jake slept hard that night.*

*We got up the next morning and after a quick breakfast, we continued our float. The morning mist was rising off the stream; more than once we heard the "Gwaking" of Great Blue Herons as we came around the corner of a bend, or startled some other bird or beast. Claire pointed upward and above us was an osprey. Jake's face lit up.*

*Driving back home, Jake slid his hand in mine, "Thanks for bringing me, Mom." I realized that I had been looking forward to a weekend break, but what I got was so much more. Somehow, with all of its subtleties, nature always has a way to educate us all.*

*Lynn Youngblood  
Nature Center Manager*

*Helping Missourians connect with nature and conserve it, too!*

# Prairie Day

at Burr Oak Woods

Saturday, June 24, 2006

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.



*Big bluestem and Indian Grass are dressed in their spring gala, the prairies are dotted with the colors of tall wildflowers -- and we're celebrating! Join us on Saturday, June 24 from 9:00 a.m. to 2 p.m. for a trip back*

*in time as we share our love of prairies and days gone by. You'll listen to the stories of the past and old-time tunes. A variety of crafters will be present, from quilters to basket maker. There will be plenty for the kids including horse-drawn wagon rides, old-time prairie games, native american indian dancing, storytelling and more. We'll even have free lunch for the first visitors.*

*This will be a truly great time for families of all sizes and ages. No registration is required.*



## MAY PROGRAMS AT LAKE CITY RANGE

28900 E Argo Road  
Grain Valley, Mo 64029  
816-229-4448

[www.mdc.state.mo/areas/ranges/lakecity](http://www.mdc.state.mo/areas/ranges/lakecity)

We are pleased to let people know about several of the programs offered by the Missouri Department of Conservation's Lake City Range. Be sure to call 816-229-4448 for information and to register for these programs.

**1 Monday, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.**

Youth .22 cal  
Metallic Target Shooting

**7 Sunday, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.**

Build a Flower Trellis

**11 Thursday, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.**

Basic Handgun

**14 Sunday, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.**

Trap Shooting Clinic

**18 Wednesday, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.**

Orienteering

**20 Friday, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.**

Youth Archery Class

**20 Saturday, 8:00 - 11:00 a.m.**

Ladies Firearm Safety

**26 Wednesday and**

**28 Friday, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.**

Introduction to Muzzleloading

**27 Saturday, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.**

Reloader's Clinic/Swap Shop

**31 Wednesday, 10:00 - Noon**

Beginning Archery Part II

## Ask a Naturalist

Do you have a fish, forest, or wildlife related question? You can write, email or call the Ask a Naturalist at Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center for an answer to your quandary and possibly have it published in the Nutshell.

**Please write to:** Ask a Naturalist  
Burr Oak Woods CNC  
1401 NW Park Rd  
Blue Springs, MO 64015  
**Email a naturalist:** [lisa.lacombe@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:lisa.lacombe@mdc.mo.gov)  
**Call a naturalist:** 816-655-6263 ext 225

## Ask a Naturalist question.

*I have long admired the Kentucky Coffeetree. A few weeks ago I collected some seeds in a parking lot. How should I plant them? Do they need any special treatment or should I just poke them in the ground and hope for the best? Thanks so much for a wonderful publication and fantastic place to visit.*

*Janet West*

Janet,

The Kentucky Coffeetree is quite an admirable tree and can be propagated from seed. However, to achieve high germination rates it is recommended that the seeds be scarified before planting. Scarification is a process in which the seed is physically changed in one way or another. In the case of the Kentucky Coffeetree the seeds do best if they have been scarified by strong acid for a period of four to six hours. This can be accomplished by placing them in a concentrated sulfuric acid solution. In nature the scarification process would occur in the digestive system of an animal such as a deer. The deer would eat the seed pod, scarifying the seed as it passed through the digestive system, and then deposit the seed (several hours later) in a new location with a nice amount of fertilizer to help it on its way.

If the sulfuric acid procedure seems to be a little too complicated or dangerous, and you just want a few to plant around the yard, just try scratching the seed coat with a file and placing them in moist paper towels. Seal the towels and seeds in a Ziploc bag for a few days and plant the ones that germinate.

Good luck and happy planting!

*Ben Pursley  
Naturalist*

For more information on planting tree seeds check out "Manual of Woody Landscape Plants" by Michael A. Dirr, a Stipes Publishing publication.

Become a Part of the  
Outdoor Skills Adventure!

If you love to have fun outdoors, and would like to learn new skills, then this program is for you! Teamwork and safety will be stressed. Making new friends is encouraged! Join us in June as we learn the basics of these outdoor skills:

- Air Rifles:** Have you always wanted to learn how to shoot a rifle? Then come on out. We will learn how to aim and shoot at a target. Gun safety will be stressed. You are guaranteed to have fun and stay safe in this program...but can you hit the bulls-eye?
- Archery:** Archery is just plain fun! Join us on the Prairie Archery Range to develop your skills with a compound bow! Wait until you try the challenge!
- Canoeing:** Missouri has over 57,000 miles of floatable streams! Let's launch our boats on the pond and learn the skills that you will need to plan a float trip of your very own. We'll even teach you the most sought after paddling technique. Very few have mastered this skill. But, you must promise to keep it a secret...
- Compass:** It is important for outdoor enthusiasts to be able to navigate in the wilderness. When we hike or canoe, we do not travel in a straight line. We follow the terrain or the river. You can become disoriented or you may get lost. You cannot work without the proper tools. By learning how to use a compass, you will be able to explore with new found confidence and freedom!
- Letterboxing:** What do you get when you cross topographical map reading with treasure hunting? Why, Letterboxing of course! Letterboxing is a unique way to learn map skills and to explore the natural treasures of the outdoors. Bring your spirit of adventure!

These skills will be offered as a block of classes. These blocks will be offered for various age groups and at different times and days in June. The morning block will be scheduled from 8:30 am – 12:00 pm. The afternoon block will be scheduled from 12:30 pm – 4:00 pm.

**Block I:**  
Air Rifles, Archery, Canoeing

**Block II:**  
Fishing, Compass 101, Topographical Maps/  
Letterboxing

Participants will sign up for ½ day block of classes at a time, if you want to participate in the Outdoor Skills Challenge you must complete both blocks. You may stay for the entire day or attend the classes on two different days. The Outdoor Skills Challenge will be offered June 8, 15, and 22.

We will provide water throughout the day. Participants that stay for the entire day will need to bring a sack lunch. Don't forget sunscreen, insect repellent and a hat! Registration beginning May 22 is required. Due to safety, age requirements are enforced.

Ages 8-11		
DATE	8:30-12:00	12:30-4:00
JUNE 5	Block I	Block II
JUNE 7	Block II	Block I
JUNE 13	Block I	Block II
JUNE 19	Block II	Block I
JUNE 21	Block I	Block II

Ages 12 and up		
DATE	8:30-12:00	12:30-4:00
JUNE 6	Block I	Block II
JUNE 12	Block II	Block I
JUNE 14	Block I	Block II
JUNE 20	Block II	Block I

Families with children ages 7 and up		
DATE	6:00 - 8:30	
JUNE 15	Block I	

Outdoor Skills Challenge		
DATE	9:00-11:00	1:00-3:00
JUNE 8	Ages 8-11	Ages 12 and up
JUNE 15	Ages 12 and up	Ages 8-11
JUNE 22	Ages 8-11	Ages 12 and up

Watch for Intermediate Outdoor Skills in July! These classes are reserved for participants that have attended a previous traditional outdoor skills camp at Burr Oak Woods.

Natural Happenings

- \*The lightning bugs are back! Watch for their flashes on warm evenings.
- \*Chigger season has begun. Chiggers are on the prowl now through September.
- \*Skunks, raccoons, coyotes and deer are born this month.
- \*Jack-in-the-pulpit are blooming.
- \*Antlers are beginning to grow on male white-tailed deer.
- \*Bluegill begin spawning this month.



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Nature Shop News  
May & June  
Featured Product

Missouri  
Bird Calls CD  
20% Off  
Regular Price  
Heritage Card Discount  
Does Not Apply



NOW AVAILABLE  
Conservation Atlas

\$20.00 plus tax  
15% discount with  
your Heritage Card

Family Fishing  
Saturday, May 6 or 20, 2006  
Saturday, June 3, 2006  
9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

**Families (with children 5 yr and up)**  
It's spring and that means it's time to bait the hooks and have some good ol' fashioned fun at the Burr Oak Woods' educational pond. We'll provide all the equipment and worms, you bring your child(ren) and we'll teach them the basics of fishing and then they'll try their luck. **ATTENDEES 16 TO 65 YR MUST HAVE A VALID FISHING LICENSE**, available for purchase at the Nature Center. Please call to register 816-228-3766.

1st Place Winner  
of the 3rd Annual  
Burr Oak Woods  
Photo Contest



Congratulations  
Dale Edsen

Go WILD!

Are you and your children tired of the same old summer day camps? Do your children become bored after only a couple of weeks of summer freedom? Then this exciting series of summer programs are for you! We will explore a side of Burr Oak Woods that you may have never seen before! Dates will include July 6, 7, 10, 11, 13, 14, 25 & 26. Watch for more details in the June Nutshell newsletter.



# May Programs

## PROGRAM REGISTRATION

Please call 816-228-3766 (TDD 816-655-6268) **ON OR AFTER THE FIRST OF THE MONTH** to register for the free programs listed. It is important to arrive five minutes before the program time. If you have to cancel, please call as soon as possible so someone on the waiting list can attend.

**6 Saturday, 9:00 a.m. - Noon**

**Burr Oak Woods Hiking Adventure: River Bluff Park Adults (20 and up)**

Join us as we hike River Bluff Park located in the Northeast part of Independence. The park overlooks the Missouri River valley in places and belongs to Jackson County Parks. We’ve hiked this one before because of its beautiful wildflowers that flourish. Hopefully we will be there when blossoms will be blooming. The hike difficulty is moderate. Please call to register.

**6 Saturday, 11:00 - Noon**

**Little Acorns: A Hiking We Will Go!**

**Ages 3 - 6**

Our Little Acorns group will be taking a nature hike to uncover the secrets in the Burr Oak Woods. We will surely find beautiful flowers, crawling insects, and maybe even some four legged furry friends! Join Naturalist Diane Neal as we strap on our hiking boots and head for the trails! Space is limited to 12. Please call to register.

**6 Saturday, 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.**

**Fishin’ Magician**

**All ages (children 12 and under must be with an adult)**

Do you love to fish? Do you love magic shows? Then this is a special program you won’t want to miss! By special appointment, the Fishin’ Magicians are coming to Burr Oak Woods. They’ll thrill you and yours with their fun and bewildering antics. How do they do that? Please call to register.

**9 Tuesday, 10:00 a.m. - Noon**

**Spring Wildflower Café: Wild Edibles Brunch**

**Adults Only (20 and up)**

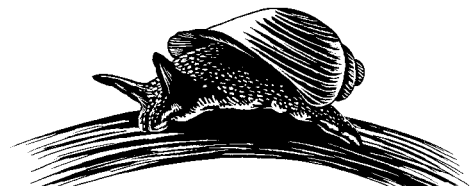
You are cordially invited to a glorious mid-morning brunch as we celebrate the new birth of spring. We will explore the trail in search of edible wild plants and flowers. Then relax in the solarium to savor a delectable brunch you’ll not soon forget. Please call to register.

**10 Wednesday, 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. or 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.**

**Homeschool: Stream Stroll**

**Ages 3 - 5**

Come and join us as we go down to the streams and discover the life that lives in the stream. Bring a tin can of any size and your favorite adult. We will be making a water view finder which allows us to see underwater without getting wet! Dress for the weather, prepare to get little wet and meet us at Bethany Falls Picnic area. Please call to register.



**10 Wednesday, 10:00 - 2:30 p.m.**

**Homeschool: In Celebration of Streams!**

**Ages 6 - 8, 9 - 11 or 12 and up**

Today we will celebrate the magic of water. Come out and spend the entire day as we Go Creekin’, design and construct a Green City for the future, discover the animals that call a stream home, and even canoe a prairie pond! Bring water and a sack lunch. Dress to get wet and muddy! A change of clothes and a towel are both advisable. Please call to register.

**11 Thursday, 8:00 - 9:30 a.m.**

**Bird Walk**

**Adults (20 and up)**

Join Naturalist Diane Neal for a bird walk along the trails of Burr Oak Woods. We’ll head out in search of spring and summer feathered visitors. Bring your binoculars and a field guide (we’ll provide these for those of you that don’t have any) and dress for the weather. Please call to register.

**13 Saturday, 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.**

**Beginning Birder’s Hike**

**Families (with children ages 5 and up)**

Come out to enjoy a beautiful spring morning exploring with your family. We will learn about birds that are common to this area and their special adaptations, then we will hit the trails to discover some of the spring birds that pass through Burr Oak Woods. Dress for the weather, and bring binoculars if you have them! Please call to register.

**14 Sunday, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.**

**Beaks and Talons: The Daytime Raptors!**

**Families (with children ages 5 and up)**

From beaks to talons, from eyesight to incredible speed, birds of prey are amazing birds! You won’t want to miss this chance to learn about their mysterious and incredible way of life! Dress for the weather, and bring binoculars if you have them! We will head outside and do our own survey of the daytime raptors that we find! Please call to register.

**16 Tuesday, 10:00 - 11:00 or 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.**

**Little Acorns: A Hiking We Will Go!**

**Ages 3 - 6**

Our Little Acorns group will be taking a nature hike to uncover the secrets in the Burr Oak Woods. We will surely find beautiful flowers, crawling insects, and maybe even some four legged furry friends! Join Naturalist Diane Neal as we strap on our hiking boots and head for the trails! Space is limited to 12. Please call to register.

**16 Tuesday, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.**

**Conservation Kid’s Club:**

**Mysteries of the Night Prairie**

**Ages 7 - 10**

Join the Kid’s Club for a magical exploration of the prairie at night. We will observe it from a new and unique perspective that you’ll never forget. Don’t miss out on an evening of thought provoking activities, fun-filled activities and enlightening discoveries. This is our final meeting until September! Please call to register.

**20 Saturday, 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.**

**Rockin’ & Readin’ Nature Tales**

**Ages 2 and up**

Join us for the story hour as we lead you on fantastic nature adventures! We will meet butterflies, birds, mammals, and all sorts of magnificent creatures! We will cross rivers, discover mysteries within the forest, and fly across the prairies. We are only limited by our imagination. Your child(ren) will not want to miss these stories of exploration and discovery. No registration required.

**20 Saturday, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.**

**Introductory Tracking**

**Ages 12 and up**

*“We cut the fresh deer sign on the west side of a ridge and followed its tracks along the way as it fed on buck brush, gooseberry, and fresh sapling buds. The sign led us down into a draw where the characteristics changed into a bounding deer...we’d been detected!”*

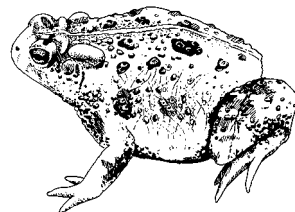
Join Journeyman Tracker, Rick Bedsworth, in this fantastic, introductory session to learn more about this ancient skill and upcoming workshops. Please call to register.

**20 Saturday, 10:00 a.m. - Noon**

**Deaf & Hard of Hearing Families: Hop To It!**

**Families (with children 3 and up)**

Did you ever wonder the difference between a frog and a toad? Why do they sing? Do toads really give you warts? These and other questions will be answered. Then we will meet a frog and a toad and make toad houses for your yard. Please bring an 8 inch clay pot to make your toad abode. Please call to register.



**20 Saturday or 21 Sunday,**

**2:30 - 3:30p.m.**

**Movie of the Month: Streams...The Force of Life**

**Ages 7 and up**

Take a break from trail walk and join us in the Burr Oak Woods Movie Theater for a short flick on streams. You will be amazed on how much you have learned from watching this great film! No registration required.

**25 Thursday, 10:00 - 11:00 or 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.**

**Little Acorns: A Hiking We Will Go!**

**Ages 3 - 6**

Our Little Acorns group will be taking a nature hike to uncover the secrets in the Burr Oak Woods. We will surely find beautiful flowers, crawling insects, and maybe even some four legged furry friends! Join Naturalist Diane Neal as we strap on our hiking boots and head for the trails! Space is limited to 12. Please call to register.

**26 Friday, 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.**

**Missouri Conservation Frontiers: Night Insects**

**Families (with children 5 and up)**

Come join us for an evening of night insects! You will get the chance to make and design your own insect box. Then, we will go outside to collect some insects to see which ones creep out into the dark night. Dress for the weather. Please call to register.

**27 Saturday, 10:00 a.m. - Noon**

**Let’s Kick off the Jr. Naturalist Program!**

**Families (with children 5 and up)**

We have a new program at Burr Oak Woods!! It is a workbook that can be completed with your family at your own pace. When the workbook is completed, you will earn a certificate and a really cool ‘Burr Oak Woods Jr. Naturalist’ bracelet! Join us as we kick off the new program with summer approaching. We will work on completing some of the activities listed in the workbook so you can get a head start to becoming a Burr Oak Woods Jr. Naturalist! Dress for the weather. Please call to register.

**28 Sunday, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.**

**Wonderful Wildflowers**

**Adults (20 and up)**

Join us for a walk to enjoy the wonderful colors of wildflowers. We will take a hike down one of our trails and search for spring wildflowers. Dress for the weather. Please call to register.

**June 2, Friday, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.**

**Bluegrass Missourians in Concert**

**All ages (children 12 and under must be with an adult)**

Join us on this beautiful spring evening for a concert in the woods. The Bluegrass Missourians have played a variety of venues in six states. They have performed for several years at Silver Dollar City and Shepherd of the Hills near Branson. The Bluegrass Missourians have produced 11 commercial albums. This outdoor concert will be a quality, family-oriented performance you will not want to miss! Please call to register.

**June 3, Saturday, 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.**

**Babes in the Woods:**

**Bugs, Bees and Butterflies**

**Ages Infant - 2**

During this class we will share ideas and activities to help your infant or toddler learn to appreciate the members of the bug world they will encounter in the outdoors. We will take a walk on one of our trails, so bring a stroller. Please call to register.

**June 4, Sunday, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.**

**Hop To It!**

**Families (with children 3 and up)**

Did you ever wonder the difference between a frog and a toad? Why do they sing? Do toads really give you warts? These and other questions will be answered. Then we will meet a frog and a toad and make toad houses for your yard. Please bring an 8 inch clay pot to make your toad abode. Please call to register.



**For more information call us at 816-228-3766 or visit our web site at <http://mdc.mo.gov/areas/cnc/burroak/>**